

AT YOUR SERVICE

NEWS FROM THE VAN BUREN/CASS DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Message on Mosquitoes

Protect yourself and loved ones against mosquito bites. West Nile Virus (WNV) cases could occur again this August and September. Use products that contain one of these ingredients: DEET; Picaridin; Oil of Eucalyptus. Clean out mosquito breeding sites. There were 36 cases of WNV in Michigan in 2013.

Chikungunya Information from MDCH

- CHIKVungunya (CHIKV) is a mosquito-borne virus in which humans are the reservoir host.
- Infection spreads between people through the bite of an infected mosquito. CHIKV is most often spread by *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes Albopictus* mosquitoes.
- Outbreaks of CHIKV have occurred in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Indian and Pacific Oceans.
- In late 2013, the first local transmission of CHIKV in the Americas was reported in some Caribbean countries and territories. CHIKV is new to the Americas and most people in the region are not immune.

From 2006-2009, 106 CHIKV cases were identified in travelers visiting or returning to the United States. With the recent outbreaks in the Caribbean, the number of CHIKV Cases in travelers visiting or returning to the U.S. is likely to increase.

- These imported cases could result in local introduction and spread of the virus in the U.S., as many states in the U.S. harbor the mosquitoes that transmit CHIKV.

- Michigan is currently not endemic for these mosquitoes, but that could change.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Focus Diagnostics currently offer both serologic and RT-PCR tests for CHIKV diagnosis.
- CHIKV is currently not a nationally notifiable disease in the U.S., but healthcare providers are encouraged to report laboratory confirmed cases to the state health department or the CDC.

"Swine Flu" and the Berrien County Youth Fair

Last summer there were a few cases of H₃N₂v influenza (swine flu) associated with this fair. Public Health is again working with the Fair to encourage prevention, primarily through hand washing at easily available wash stations. Surveillance of the pigs continues; and this year the required immunization of the exhibited swine should be beneficial.

However, Medical providers should be alert for individuals who have been at the fair and present with flu-like symptoms. Maintain a high index of suspicion. The rapid influenza test is not useful for this diagnosis. Also, the influenza vaccine does not protect against this variant strain.

In Michigan, PCR testing that can diagnosis variant swine flu is only available at the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) lab. Specimens (primarily NP Swabs) from suspect novel cases, including H₃N₂v cases, should be submitted to the state lab.

- Immediately contact your local Health Department or MDCH may be contacted at (517) 335-8165 or after hours at (517) 335-9030 to report suspect cases and to arrange for testing.

- Information on how to collect and submit specimens to the MDCH Bureau of Laboratories, including the required Test Requisition form, can be found at the following website:

<http://goo.gl/k2f5bf>

- Information for clinicians regarding the treatment of H₃N₂v influenza is available at the following website:

<http://goo.gl/vt8IE>

- The antiviral drugs oseltamivir (Tamiflu) and zanamivir (Relenza), which are used to treat infection with seasonal influenza viruses are effective in treating H₃N₂v virus infection. Early initiation of antiviral treatment is most effective.

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